

Appl. No. 09/996,115  
Amdt. dated November 20, 2003  
Reply to Office action of September 11, 2003

### Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 1-3, 12-14, 17-19, 28-30, 32-35 and 37 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Such claims may be pursued within a separately filed continuing application.

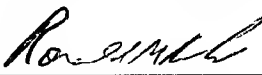
Also by the present amendment, allowable claims 31 and 36 are rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, only allowed claims remain in the subject application. As such, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered because issues are reduced. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the present application only contains allowed claims and as such it is respectfully requested that the present application be allowed and permitted to issue.

If there are any additional fees required by the foregoing Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34119.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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